

# A new beginning



(From left to right) Mr Santosh Kumar, CEO, Operation and International Director, JLL India; Mr Deepak Agarwal, CEO, Greater Noida Authority; Mr Parmit Garg, Project Director, Noida-Greater Noida, DMRC Ltd; Mr N P Singh, DM, Noida; Mr Dharmendra Kapoor, COO, Birlasoft and Mr Rajat Gupta, MD, Advisory & Transaction Service, CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd at *The Indian Express* Round Table Conference. The session was moderated by *The Indian Express*'s Sandeep Singh



TTENDANTS at *The Indian Express* Round Table Conference held on September 16, 2016, were upbeat about the all-round development that Noida and Greater Noida are bound to undergo in the near future. From discussing 'Will Noida and Greater Noida Corridor be the next IT hub?', the panelists went on to reasonably foresee a future perfect digitised society in the region.

The eminent panelists came from various spheres of society such as decision makers, policy makers, real estate advisors, IT heads and others. **Mr Deepak Agarwal**, CEO, Greater Noida Authority; **Mr N P Singh**, DM, Noida; **Mr. Parmit Garg**, Project Director, Noida-Greater Noida, DMRC Ltd; **Mr Rajat Gupta**, MD, Advisory & Transaction Service, CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd; **Mr Santosh Kumar**, CEO, Operation and International Director, JLL India; **Mr Dharmendra Kapoor**, COO, Birlasoft, were present in Noida.

With metro connectivity for commuters, better law and order and police protection, real estate companies, IT and MNCs are looking to gain ground in the region and even surpass the Gurgaon benchmark by raising the bar. A look at how the evening rolled out at the Assotech-powered RTC. The panel discussion was followed by questions from the audience.

**IE: Will Noida provide a solution to IT companies to set up offices in the region?**

**Dharmendra Kapoor:** Of course, Birla Soft has been in Noida for more than 20 years and have evolved with time. With the up-coming corridor, Noida and Greater Noida are gaining the image of being IT hubs. With the title of IT hub, numerous MNCs (automation, robotics etc) will want to set up offices here and that would give the region the definition of a true IT/technology hub.

**IE: What role can the administration and authorities play in providing space to IT companies?**

**Rajat Gupta:** Of course, the administration is a great facilitator. From an infrastructure point of view, the authorities have helped greatly in connecting Delhi, Noida and Gurgaon. However, I would add to the question and ask, why should Noida not become a corporate hub, a digitised hub of high-end offices, of KPOs, of financial services etc? Once demands come from across industry segments, it augurs better for the region. Such opportunities will mean a better growth trajectory. Any regional development will look at the requirements of schools, colleges, hospitals, shopping centres etc and for such an ecosystem, both private and public sectors need to come together.

to create a successful growth story.

**IE: How are you making the region more investor friendly?**

**N P Singh:** As the collector of Noida district, I understand availability of land is the prime requirement, followed by quality infrastructure, then the human capital development and policy simplification and policy implementation. This will lead to transparent and judicious accessibility to companies in UP. Noida is working towards all such requirements. Today, the law and order situation has improved and is still improving. Besides, road connectivity is good and expansion of Metro projects will allow for seamless connectivity with Delhi.

The challenge is creating the connect between industry and institutions. Secondly, what is needed is quality human capital development and skill development. Under our chief minister, new start-up policies have been formulated. During skill development, even farmers must be taken into account. They should feel they are partners in development and not victims of development. Thirdly, development of market is essential and the government is eager to develop IT and IT-enabled services. In UP, there are 20,000 E-Suvidha Kendras, Jan Suvidha Kendras, Lok Vanis. Besides, there is e-governance and the digital divide is being bridged by giving away laptops to youth.

**IE: What is the progress of the metro as a medium of transport?**

**Parmit Garg:** To create a sustainable transport solution, a stretch of 30 km is being constructed on the initiatives of Noida and Greater Noida authorities who are even funding this venture. The 30-km stretch from Noida to Greater Noida can seamlessly transfer passengers to the existing Blue Line Delhi Metro from Dwarka to City Centre. It is also being extended to Sector 62.

A line is being extended to Botanical Garden and it is being extended to Noida Extension. December 2017 is the timeline we are looking at though the UP government has given us a deadline of April 2018.

**IE: What will be the game changer**



Kumar Alok Gupta, Senior Director, CBRE



Mr Parmit Garg, Project Director, Noida-Greater Noida, DMRC Ltd

